

Remarks

Applicant provisionally elects the claims of Species I-A , corresponding to claims 18, 23, and 25, with traverse. Applicant further submits that independent claim 18 is generic to Species I-A to I-K.

Applicant submits that the subject matter of all Species is sufficiently related such that a thorough search for the subject matter of one of the Species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining Species. This is clearly the case in view of the Examiner's prior search and examination of **all** pending claims 18-42 in the Office Action dated May 22, 2008. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of all pending claims in the application **can again** be made without serious burden. See, e.g., MPEP § 803, which states that "[i]f the search and examination of all the claims in an application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine them on the merits, even though they include claims to independent or distinct inventions."

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the Election Requirement and examination of all claims on the merits. Should the Examiner require anything further to examine the claims or place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
/ John A. Merecki /

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